

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

HUNDREDS OF PRESBYTERIANS TO MEET IN THIS CITY.

THE FOURTH AVENUE CHURCH TO BE HONORED BY THE ASSEMBLING THERE OF THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS THIS WEEK.

—IMPORTANT TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED—

SOME OF THE DELEGATES.

The future historian of New-York will have occasion to record for this year not only the successful celebration of the Washington centennial, but also that 1889 was memorable on account of the great religious meetings held here. The cordial hospitality extended to the members of the Methodist General Conference last year excited the interest and admiration of the Presbyterians, the Congregationalists and the Episcopalians to such an extent that the General Assembly, the American Board and the General Convention are to meet here this year.

The General Assembly is the abbreviated title of the highest body in that part of the Presbyterian church which, by the adoption of a resolution offered by Dr. Gardner Spring in 1861, remained loyal to the Union. The corporate name is the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The Southern Assembly has the same corporate name with the omission of the last two words. Both assemblies meet on the same day—Thursday of this week—the one at Dr. Howard Crosby's church in Fourth-ave., and the other at the First Presbyterian Church in Chastanooga, Tenn. The Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, pastor of the Madison Avenue Church in this city, will preach the opening sermon here, and the Rev. Dr. J. J. Bullock, of Washington, will preach at Chastanooga. The sermons at 11 a. m. are followed by luncheon, and in the afternoon new moderators are elected to serve one year.

THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Dr. Crosby, one of the few pastors in this city who have served one people for a quarter of a century, is the chairman of the committee that has charge of the entertainment of the commissioners during the ten or twelve days that they will be here. This committee are also perfecting the details of the Assembly, so far as they can be prepared in advance, that there shall be no hitch when the Moderator's gavel has given the signal to start. With Dr. Crosby are associated Drs. John Hall, Staley B. Rossiter, George Alexander and William H. Roberts, the State Clerk of the Assembly, and the Rev. Henry T. McEwen, Elders Warner Van Norden, Elliott F. Shepard, Samuel Inslee, W. L. Skidmore and S. S. Clark.

On Thursday, besides the sermon, the roll-call of the commissioners and the election of a moderator, there will be a communion service in the Fourth Avenue Church. Much interest centers in the choice of a presiding officer. Geographical lines formerly were observed, the office going one year to the East and the next year to the West, but this sentiment has lately given way to a desire to place the best man in the chair. Dr. Thompson was the pastor of a church in Kansas City when he was elected last year, but his admirable bearing under most trying circumstances, his just rulings of all questions, and his long in Missouri after the Assembly adjourned.

ORGANIC UNION NOT POSSIBLE YET.

Only once did Dr. Thompson lose control of the Centennial Assembly at Philadelphia, and then not till he had broken his beautiful gavel, which grooved unequal to bear the strain of the storm caused by the heated discussion of the Southern question. This problem is to come before the Assembly again this year, but a repetition of the scene when applause and hisses mingled in Historical Hall is not expected. The idea of organic union is laid aside for the present, and a conference committee is to present a plan for co-operation between the two assemblies. Last year it was hoped by many that the centennial love and fervor displayed would consume all memories of former days. But in this they were disappointed.

The Southern Assembly decided at its meeting in Baltimore that "we are unable to discover that the obstacles to organic union heretofore existing between the Northern and Southern General Assemblies have been removed, and we therefore appointed their committee" to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Northern Church in reference to modes of fraternal co-operation in Christian work, but not home and abroad. On the other hand, the Northern Assembly resolved that "This Assembly expresses its conviction that the most effective form of co-operation can be secured only by an organic union of the two churches, for the more effective performance of Christian work," a new committee was appointed to confer with the Southern committee "in devising such methods of conducting our common work, both at home and abroad, as shall open the door to the fullest and heartiest co-operation." The committee met here in December, and met in Atlanta next month, and the members will report to their respective assemblies probably early in the session.

A BUSY SESSION PROMISED.

Besides the regular reports of the trustees of the church, the eight boards and their standing committees, the special committees on Benevolence and Temperance and the thirteen theological institutions whose claims demand the attentions of the Assembly, there are no less than twenty-six special committees which are to present reports. The work of three of the committees has been to ascertain the duty of the Northern Assembly as a denomination to the Presbyterian churches of continental Europe, and especially the churches of the United States of America, which it is proposed to establish in Berlin; with these may be associated the interesting report on the formation of the new Synod of Brazil. Two of the theological institutions, the Southern Church and the broader question of church unity; four or five others to questions of public morality, such as Sabbath observance, religious instruction in the army and navy, India schools, and the liquor traffic in Africa. Six have to do with matters of policy and administration, and the constitution of the church; two relate to the Centenary Fund and the mode of its permanent increase, and one to the serious matter of revising the proof-texts quoted in the Confession of Faith.

"The Evangelist" thinks that "the chief interest of the report is the report of the committee on the history of New-York as their hard names are on its topography were Calvinists. These clear-thinking, home-keeping, liberty-loving Scotch-Irish who made the valleys of Pennsylvania and Virginia like the valleys of the Lord were Calvinists. These rugged, broad-headed, stony Scotch who found new Highlands in the rugged hills and fertile slopes of North Carolina, and forever associated the name of Mecklenburg with American independence, were Calvinists. These knightly Huguenots who have left the impress of their faith and their names on the valleys of the South and the mountains of the West were Calvinists. And what shall I say more? For the time would fail me to tell of all the Olden and Barons and Sannons of this Calvinistic stock."

Judging simply by the cold facts of history the growth of the Presbyterian Church in this country has been steady and marked. In spite of the struggles and wars it started. Dr. Roberts, of Lane Seminary, who succeeded Dr. Hatfield as State Clerk of the Assembly, has published an interesting sketch covering the principal events in the history of the denomination. A statistical table containing in brief the record of the growth and progress of the Church for nearly 250 years. Prior to 1789 accurate figures seem to be unobtainable.

Year	Members	Churches	Communicants
1640	10	1	10
1650	100	10	100
1660	1,000	100	1,000
1670	10,000	1,000	10,000
1680	100,000	10,000	100,000
1690	1,000,000	100,000	1,000,000
1700	10,000,000	1,000,000	10,000,000
1710	100,000,000	10,000,000	100,000,000
1720	1,000,000,000	100,000,000	1,000,000,000
1730	10,000,000,000	1,000,000,000	10,000,000,000
1740	100,000,000,000	10,000,000,000	100,000,000,000
1750	1,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000
1760	10,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000
1770	100,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000
1780	1,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000
1790	10,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000,000
1800	100,000,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000,000
1810	1,000,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000,000
1820	10,000,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000,000,000
1830	100,000,000,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000,000,000
1840	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
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1870	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
1880	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
1890	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

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These angels and men, thus predestinated and fore-ordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be increased or diminished.

As God has appointed the elect unto glory, so hath He, by the same eternal decree, appointed the reprobate unto death, both angels and men.

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